

I am writing to you today as a current DIRECTV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers in Carriere, Ms. as well as consumers across the U.S. including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a stronger alternative to cable here in Carriere, Ms. Throughout the country, satellite TV subscribers will no longer be forced to watch snowy local channels received over off-air antennas due to uncaring local broadcasters who are unwilling to grant out-of-market broadcast eligibility waivers to them. Satellite subscribers will be able to turn to their satellite TV service to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to Carriere, Ms. & over 40 million other Americans who don't have access to high-speed Internet service. These tremendous benefits to consumers in Carriere & across the U.S. won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

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